



The President's Daily Brief

November 30, 1976

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

November 30, 1976

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RHODESIA: The Zimbabwe Peoples' Army, which has been carrying the brunt of the insurgent effort inside Rhodesia, announced yesterday that it will send its own delegation to the Geneva conference because it disagrees with the independence date generally accepted by the conference.

If the delegation is admitted, its militant views will make the establishment of a transition government even more difficult.

ZIPA's decision to send its own group to Geneva probably reflects uneasiness over the nationalists' failure to win immediate independence and a desire to have a more direct hand in the political settlement. In its public statements, ZIPA has consistently rejected the Geneva talks and called for a black takeover of Rhodesia "through the barrel of the gun."

There have been several indications that ZIPA has wanted to establish a political organization of its own and to divorce itself from Robert Mugabe's group, which includes several guerrilla leaders. Some of these, including the supreme commander Josiah Tongogara, left Geneva on November 5 to consult the ZIPA leadership in Tanzania and Mozambique. ZIPA's hard stand on a Rhodesian settlement has forced Mugabe, who derives his principal support from the guerrillas, to take a tough position in the negotiations.

Participation in the conference by a separate ZIPA delegation will probably be resisted by the other nationalist groups, who have shown a willingness to compromise on a political settlement and who would prefer that the ZIPA leaders remain part of Mugabe's delegation. The Smith delegation also will not be interested in negotiating directly with the military leaders whose troops it is still fighting.

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USSR-EGYPT: *The USSR and Egypt are maneuvering to see which side will make the first concession toward a rapprochement.*

The talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko and Egyptian Foreign Minister Fahmi several weeks ago were not amiable [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Since the meeting, Moscow has gone out of its way to underscore its grievances with Cairo. In a radio broadcast last night the Soviets questioned the genuineness of Cairo's motives in seeking better ties. The two sides also have encountered difficulties in their preliminary discussions on renewal of the annual trade agreement for 1977.

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The USSR clearly does not want to be seen making concessions to Egypt without a sign of change in Egyptian policy. Gromyko has mentioned privately that Cairo will ultimately have to revalidate the friendship treaty that was abrogated by President Sadat earlier this year. [REDACTED]

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Sadat has publicly acknowledged the need for continued contacts and, in an interview last week, revealed that he has sent a note to General Secretary Brezhnev proposing a summit meeting. The Egyptian President added, however, that Brezhnev will have to "take me as I am and not as he wants me to be," apparently signaling that Cairo is not prepared to return to a friendship treaty or even a

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statement of principles as a basis for any new relationship. Egypt, meanwhile, has come out in favor of Moscow's proposal to resume the Geneva conference on the Middle East.

Sadat is trying to get Washington's attention by reviving his Soviet connection, but he apparently does not want to make any move toward the USSR that would compromise his dealing with a new US administration.

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YUGOSLAVIA:

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Belgrade asserts that the Soviets criticized the Yugoslavs--including some unspecified top officials--for anti-Soviet remarks that have appeared in speeches and the media.

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A high-level EC delegation is traveling to Yugoslavia this week to explore ways to develop stronger economic and political ties.

The EC sees the visit as a gesture to reaffirm Yugoslavia's nonaligned status and to underscore the importance of its relationship with Western Europe. Yugoslavia first expressed interest in establishing closer relations with the Community last summer after Greece submitted its bid for EC membership.

During the visit, agreement will probably be reached to begin negotiations next year on expanding Yugoslavia's 1973 non-preferential trade agreement with the Community. Belgrade wants the EC to recognize Yugoslavia as a "nonaligned Mediterranean developing country" and would like a new agreement with the EC to parallel those the Community has concluded this year with other Mediterranean states.

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NOTES

The Soviets launched a type of Soyuz spacecraft yesterday, probably to evaluate the performance and reliability of the new vehicle before launching one with cosmonauts aboard.

The spacecraft can carry three cosmonauts--one more than the present Soyuz vehicle. We believe the new spacecraft will be used to ferry crews and supplies to Soviet space stations. The last space station launched--Salyut 5--can accommodate three cosmonauts.

The orbit of the spacecraft indicates that it will not dock with either of the two space stations now in orbit.

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A convoy of three, possibly four, Cuban merchant ships is returning to Cuba from Angola.

The convoy--the fifth since major fighting subsided in early 1976--will probably carry small amounts of military equipment in addition to troops.

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The ships in the convoy reportedly took an unspecified number of relief troops to Angola in early November.

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